

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

In Memoriam

HENRY CLAY POTTER

Captain 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry

DIED AT PHILADELPHIA PA. JANUARY 1 1912

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

CIRCULAR NO. 16 }
Series of 1912. }
Whole No. 752. }

Philadelphia, October 23, 1912.

HENRY CLAY POTTER.

Private Commonwealth Pennsylvania Artillery April 24, 1861; mustered out August 5, 1861.

Second Lieutenant 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry December 8, 1862; First Lieutenant June 1, 1863; Captain April 14, 1865; transferred to 3d Provisional Pennsylvania Cavalry June 24, 1865; honorably mustered out October 31, 1865.

Elected November 1, 1876. Class 1. Insignia 1741.

Registrar of the Commandery May 2, 1888-1890.

Born June 12, 1841, at Philadelphia, Pa.

Died January 1, 1912, at Philadelphia, Pa.

Companion Potter was a private in the Commonwealth Pennsylvania Artillery April 24th, 1861; Second Lieutenant in the 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry December 8th, 1862; First Lieutenant June 1st, 1863; Captain Co. L, 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry April 14th, 1865; transferred to 3d Provisional Pennsylvania Cavalry June 24th, 1865; honorably mustered out with Co. D 3rd Regiment Provisional Pennsylvania Cavalry October 31st, 1865.

Promptly after the bombardment of Fort Sumpter in 1861 Companion Potter enlisted at Philadelphia in the Commonwealth Pennsylvania Artillery and was stationed at Fort Delaware until mustered out August 5th, 1861. He enlisted in the 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry December 8th, 1862, and in 1863, as First Lieutenant, he took an active part in the Gettysburg Campaign which opened with the fight at Hanover, Pa., June 30th, 1863. July 6th, 1863, under General Kilpatrick, the 18th Pennsylvania Cavalry, in close pursuit of the Rebel Army, fought the Confederate forces for the possession of Hagerstown, Md. During a charge through the main street his company was practically destroyed and he was taken as a prisoner to Richmond and Libby Prisons where he was confined until March, 1864, when he was transferred to Macon, Ga. While a prisoner he helped to establish a hospital for the sick and wounded outside the stockade at Macon, Ga. Later, when being transferred to Charleston, S. C., he escaped from a guarded train with two other prisoners, and after wandering for several days without food, through the Carolina swamps, he was recaptured and taken to Columbia, S. C. Again

he managed to escape through the line of sentries. After tramping for many nights he was joined by another Union officer and for several days was secreted upon the Dare plantation; then at Adams' plantation, but he was finally recaptured and sent to Edgefield Court House; thence to Columbia and finally to the prisoners' camp at Macon where he was exchanged. Upon his arrival at Washington he was invited to join General U. S. Grant and party on his trip to Philadelphia and Trenton. General Grant was very much interested in the story of his Southern prison experience and other military information which he was able to impart. Later he rejoined his regiment in the Potomac Valley and was present at a number of campaigns against General Rosser's Confederate brigade. He also did considerable scouting in West Virginia, in the vicinity of Cumberland, Clarksburg, Grafton and Charleston. He was also a member of the Historical and Genealogical Societies, Sons of the Revolution and the Nicholas Biddle Section of the U. S. Navy League. He was an officer of exceptional patriotism and bravery, daring and athletic, and beloved by all his associates. He was educated in private schools at Long Academy, Martsville, Episcopal Academy and Samuel Crawford's at Fourth and Arch Streets, Phila. He was the son of Thomas Evans Potter and his wife Mary Reighard Baker, of Philadelphia. Henry Clay Potter was a member of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange from 1865 to 1900, and on the Board of Governors. He was also a member of the Union League for several years. He married Emily Graff Spooner, who survives him. He is also survived by eight children.

JOSEPH U. CRAWFORD,
Captain 6th N. J. Infantry.

R. DALE BENSON,
Brevet Major U. S. Volunteers.

THOMAS SKELTON HARRISON,
Acting Paymaster U. S. Navy.

Committee.

By command of

Brig.-General SAMUEL W. FOUNTAIN, U. S. A.
Commander

JOHN P. NICHOLSON
Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel U. S. V.
Recorder

Official

Recorder

